

Appl 10/751,358
Amdt dated July 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 29, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (new): A buoyant hand held fishing gaff for manually engaging and lifting fish from water, comprising:

an elongated handle having a substantially straight main portion having a proximal end of said handle and a grasping or gripping portion arcuately extending away from a longitudinal axis of said straight portion and terminating at a distal end of said handle;

a fish engaging member having a substantially straight shank portion and an arcuately shaped hook portion terminating in a sharpened distal tip thereof;

said shank portion operably connected in substantially colinear alignment within, and extending from said proximal end, said shank portion being securely positionable in a plurality of different rotationally aligned positions whereby said hook portion is selectively positionably orientable about the longitudinal axis with respect to said grasping or gripping portion;

said handle being hollow and of sufficient airtight interior air volume to render said fish gaff substantially buoyant in water.

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Claim 9 (new): A hand held fishing gaff for hooking and lifting fish from water comprising:

- an elongated handle having a straight portion at one end and an offset hand grasping portion at another end of said handle;
- said grasping portion extending divergently away from a longitudinal axis of said straight portion toward a distal end of said handle;
- a generally u-shaped fish engaging member having a shank portion and a hook portion thereof, said hook portion terminating at a sharpened distal tip thereof, said shank portion supportively engaged generally coaxially into the end of said straight portion and being held therein in selected rotational positions about the longitudinal axis whereby said fish hook portion is selectively orientable into each of a plurality of positions with respect to said hand grasping portion;
- a protective tip guard formed as a unit of resilient elastomeric or plastic material having a tip cover at one end thereof sized to snugly fit over the pointed distal tip of said hook portion and an enlarged tubular portion at another end of said tip guard snugly fitted over said shank portion for support, said tip cover and said tubular portion interconnected by an elongated resilient band.

Claim 10 (new): A hand held fishing gaff for hooking and lifting fish from water comprising:

- an elongated handle having a straight portion and an arcuate gripping portion, said straight and gripping portions substantially lying in a plane;

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said arcuate gripping portion having a uniform oval cross section over substantially the entire length thereof with a maximum width of said oval cross section lying in said plane, said oval cross section enhancing gripability and a sense of orientation of said handle when gripped;

a fish hook having a shank portion connected into a proximal end of said straight portion and being held for rotation and limited longitudinal movement about a longitudinal axis common to said straight portion and said shank;

said gripping portion extending away from the longitudinal axis toward a distal end of said handle;

a fish hook detent interconnected between said straight portion and said shank portion, said fish hook being selectively self-locking by said detent into one of a plurality of positional orientations about the longitudinal axis and with respect to said gripping portion.

Claim 11 (new): A hand held fishing gaff as set forth in Claim 8, wherein:

said handle is substantially filled with STYRAFOAM to maintain air tightness and buoyancy of said handle in water.

Claim 12 (new): A hand held fishing gaff as set forth in Claim 8, further comprising:

a tubular foam covering formed of closed cell foam material extending over said gripping portion for enhanced gripability and additional buoyancy of said fishing gaff.